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BOOK NOTICES

In the Service of the King: A Parson's Story.

By Joseph B. Dunn. New York: Putnam, 1915. Pp. ix+158. \$1.25.

Here is a rare little volume. It is written from a sense of love; it thrills with life. The writer has a splendid sense of humor; for that reason he is an expert in practical religion, making people happy even when the day rose dark and life seems empty. This parson has found his great message in human life. Plain facts have made him a heretic, but he prefers to follow "the God of things as they are" rather than the little book-theorists who make such a hopeless muddle of life. A book like this does not have to be read—it reads itself, and gives you opportunity and inspiration to write one of your own at the same time.

Modern Movements among Moslems. By

Samuel Graham Wilson. New York: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1916. Pp. 305. \$1.50.

In the light of the present European conflict, this book has unusual significance. The author masses facts to show that Islam is by no means a hopelessly fixed and unchangeable religion. It has proved its power to assimilate truths and customs from other faiths, and even to formulate new conceptions so as to meet modern demands. Far from being a dead faith, hopelessly outclassed by Christianity, Dr. Wilson proves that Islam is thoroughly awakened by a great revivalistic spirit and by its political hope of one day bringing the whole world under its way. Not only in Africa, India, and Turkey has this double motive found startling expression in recent decades, but in the present war areas—Armenia, Persia, and Egypt, in particular—all of the Turkish-Mohammedan movements are full of new meaning when this viewpoint is kept well in mind. The remarkable spread of Islam today, with its inferior and hate-inspiring propaganda receiving all possible emphasis, is regarded by Dr. Wilson as the most insidious danger which Christianity has to face in all the world today. Islam's progress is held to be the greatest call to Christian activity known in modern missions.

The Churches of the Federal Council. Edited by

Charles S. Macfarland. New York: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1916. Pp. 266. \$1.00.

This volume gathers together thirty different essays describing the particular views and history of the thirty different denominations whose delegates form the Federal Council of the

Churches of Christ in America. The descriptions of the various communions are not all of the same pattern, and they naturally vary in value. If there is any particular criticism to be made of the work as a whole, it is that because of the interest in showing the general comity in spirit, there is a lack of sharply defined statement as to the most characteristic theological views. This is less true, however, of those bodies which have confessional basis.

The volume will be a handy volume of reference, and it is of particular value in showing how these denominations are tending to recognize the common divisor of a generic gospel.

Rhythmic Studies of the Word (Vol. II). By

J. M. Cavaness. New York: Abingdon Press, 1916. Pp. 135. \$0.75.

A series of short poems based upon scattered verses of the Bible. At no point can the author claim to have touched the realm of real poetry, although his verse will doubtless be found helpful in uncritical circles where ancient poems of piety are held in esteem.

The Church and the New Knowledge. By

E. M. Caillard. New York: Longmans, Green, & Co., 1915. Pp. 221. \$0.90.

Miss Caillard believes that with the influx of modern scientific thought Christianity assumes greater significance for the world. While many of the theories formerly held by church Fathers must necessarily give way before the more accurate reasoning of today, yet the heart of the faith is essentially the same—instinct with life more than ever devoted to the saving of the whole human being and of all society as well, to the highest things of which it is capable.

Behold the Woman! A Tale of Redemption.

By T. Everett Harré. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1916. Pp. 400. \$1.35.

The author has here undertaken to develop one of the most delicate yet most appealing themes in all the world: the restoration of a seemingly hopeless and hardened life to purity and godliness, through the power of Jesus Christ. But, as is so often the case, Mr. Harré has overemphasized the grosser features of the story, making a life of sin more attractive than a career of straightforward goodness. There is no denying the undoubted skill with which he handles many of his dramatic scenes; yet one becomes surfeited with so much exaggerated

and harrowing detail. Even such a study in abnormal psychology might gain in power if it were drawn in simpler lines, and if more balance and reality appeared in the rounding out of the story.

Socrates, Master of Life. By William Ellery Leonard. Chicago: Open Court Publishing Co., 1915. Pp. vii+118. \$1.00.

A brief but illuminating sketch of the career of the great philosopher, with many side lights from the times in which he wrought. Helpful leaders of thought, such as Mohammed and Jesus, are also included, and the Athenian's influence is traced through succeeding generations.

Methods of Teaching Primary Grades. By Ella Jacobs. Philadelphia: Jewish Chautauqua Society, 1914. Pp. 192.

Methods of Teaching "Jewish History"—Senior Grade. By Edward N. Calisch. Philadelphia: Jewish Chautauqua Society, 1915. Pp. 264.

Methods of Teaching Jewish Ethics. By Julia Richman and Eugene H. Leman. Philadelphia: Correspondence School for Religious School Teachers, 1914. Pp. 274.

These are very suggestive and useful textbooks, with a practical emphasis which gives assurance that the Jewish youth trained by these methods will be unusually intelligent in their relations to God, to their fellow-Jews, and even to those of other faiths and nations. Jewish pride and exclusiveness, and an utter lack of appreciation of the nobler elements in Christianity, are still present in these lessons. But, on the whole, they represent a marked advance in religious education—in keeping with the general forward movement in all denominations.

Child Study and Child Training. By William Byron Forbush. New York: Scribner, 1915. Pp. vii+319. \$1.00.

Dr. Forbush has the knack of telling the greatest truths in the simplest possible language. Parents, teachers, and study-groups in day schools and Sunday schools will find here a great many helpful suggestions drawn from the ripest scholarship of the times. How to understand children; how to train them in honesty, in reverence, in play-life, in elementary work; the use of stories, of prayer habits, of amusements; how to make a nice combination of the influences felt in home, school, and church, and training for suitable life-tasks in later years—

all of these and many other problems are dealt with in a most inspiring and wholesome fashion. Many suggestive programs for laboratory experiments are also carefully outlined, so that the student may be trained to observe and classify facts for himself.

Commencement Days. A Book for Graduates. By Washington Gladden. New York: Macmillan, 1916. Pp. 257. \$1.25.

Eleven practical addresses filled with a warm faith in the youth of the land who are leaving Alma Mater for the more serious pursuits of business and professional life. The author wants all his young friends to feel the passion for service, to become the molders of a nobler civilization. To this end he advocates the most painstaking culture of the inner life. It is the growing man who counts for most and makes a lasting impression upon society.

World Power: The Empire of Christ. By John MacNeill. New York: Hodder & Stoughton, 1914. Pp. 203. \$1.00 net.

Sermons preached to Toronto audiences at the commencement of the present world-war. Words of counsel and cheer based upon the great tragedies and heroic acts so commonly seen in the war zone.

The Christian Faith. A Handbook of Christian Teaching. By W. C. Clark. Boston: Sherman, French & Co., 1915. Pp. 347. \$1.50.

A book of this kind will doubtless find ready acceptance in the most conservative Christian centers of the country. It can have no helpful message for the thousands of young people who have caught even a little bit of the historic spirit. If *this* is Christianity, as Dr. Clark avers, then the masses of our people will continue to resent its implications and to forget its God. Although kindly meant, this is the cruder faith of long ago. Forward-looking Christians have found a nobler expression of their convictions.

The Natural Order of Spirit: A Psychic Study and Experience. By Lucien C. Graves. Boston: Sherman French, & Co., 1915. Pp. v+365. \$1.50.

A sturdy defense of spiritualistic visions, with numerous "testimonies," derived through "reliable mediums," from the departed. The life after death is here held most real and reasonable.